AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 2, line 24 – page 3, line 9 to read as follows:

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a reflective slide fastener and a reflective tape which allow the color or pattern of the coupling elements and/or fastener tape of a slide fastener or other article to be applied to be seen without ~~no~~ discernible change under the conditions of the usual use (under the conditions of exposure to diffused light, such as sunlight) but exhibit the retroreflection when irradiated with light (under the conditions of retroreflection) and thus do not require to prepare the reflective materials of different colors elaborately adapted to fit varying colors of fastener tapes and coupling elements because they can fit the fastener tapes and coupling elements of varying colors with one reflective material.

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 4, line 25 – page 5, line 9 to read as follows.

The reflective slide fastener and the reflective tape of the present invention are adapted to allow the color of the article to be applied, such as fastener tapes and coupling elements, to be seen therethrough and particularly use the transparent or translucent retroreflective material containing the reflective layer formed from a metal compound which has permeability to light. Therefore, they allow the color and pattern of the coupling elements or fastener tapes of a slide fastener, for example, to be seen without ~~no~~ discernible change under the conditions of the usual use (under the conditions of exposure to diffused light, such as sunlight) but exhibit the retroreflection when irradiated with light (under the conditions of retroreflection).

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 5, line 10 – page 6, line 9 to read as follows.

In the retroreflective material of the preferred embodiment of the present invention further including the colored reflective layer which contains the reflective pigment and is arranged under the above-mentioned reflective layer, the reflective layer is formed from a metal compound which has permeability to light. Accordingly, when it is irradiated with light (under the conditions of retroreflection), part of the incident light from above is retroreflected by the reflective layer, and part of light which has passed through the reflective layer is further retroreflected in the opposite direction to the incident direction of the light by the reflective pigments contained in the colored reflective layer. Therefore, the satisfactorily high reflective luminance can be realized. Further, in the case of the colored retroreflective material provided with the colored reflective layer, since the color of the reflected light can be adjusted to a different color depending on the kind of pigment incorporated into the colored reflective layer, it is possible to adjust the color of the reflected light to a different color from that of the coupling elements or fastener tapes of a slide fastener. On the other hand, since the color and pattern of the coupling elements or fastener tapes of a slide fastener can be seen without ~~no~~ discernible change under the conditions of the usual use (under the conditions of exposure to diffused light, such as sunlight), the colored retroreflective material will not impair the appearance of the slide fastener and enjoys excellent design.

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 8, line 22 – page 9, line 18 to read as follows.

Fig. 1 shows an embodiment of a reflective slide fastener of the present invention which comprises a pair of stringers 3 each having a fastener tape 1 and a row of coupling elements 2 secured to and along a longitudinal inner edge of the fastener tape 1 at fixed intervals. The individual coupling elements 2 are formed by injection molding a synthetic resin material. A slider 4 is slidably mounted on the rows of coupling elements 2 for engaging and disengaging the coupling elements in a manner well known to open and close the fastener. A narrow

retroreflective material (retroreflective tape) 10 is fixedly secured to the surfaces of each ~~raw~~ row of coupling elements 2 of this slide fastener in such a manner that it extends in the longitudinal direction of the fastener tape 1 over the coupling elements 2. The retroreflective tape 10 is fixedly secured to each ~~raw~~ row of coupling elements 2 by adhesion, welding or sewing so as to partially cover the upper surfaces of leg portions 2a of the coupling elements 2 and also extend between the leg portions 2a, 2a of the adjoining coupling elements 2. Incidentally, the retroreflective material 10 may be secured to the upper surface only of the leg portion 2a of the individual coupling ~~element~~ elements 2 discretely. Needless to say, the coupling elements are not limited to those manufactured by injection molding a synthetic resin and may be those manufactured by extrusion molding a synthetic resin or by die-casting a metal material.

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 4 to read as follows.

Fig. 2 shows another embodiment of the reflective slide fastener of the present invention. In this embodiment, coiled coupling elements 5 are attached to the inner longitudinal edges of the respective fastener tapes 1 and the ~~both side~~ right and left retroreflective tapes 10a, 10a are brought into contact to each other when the coiled coupling elements 5, 5 are meshed. This reflective slide fastener is constructed such that the retroreflective surface is formed substantially as a whole on the front surfaces of the areas of rows of coupling elements in the meshed state and allows the patterns in the surfaces of the fastener tapes to be seen therethrough. The retroreflective tape may be attached to the surface of the fastener tape other than the inner longitudinal edge thereof as shown by the imaginary ~~line~~ lines.

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 14 to read as follows.

Further, the above-mentioned colored reflective layer may be made of a transparent resin containing a coloring pigment and/or a dye. For example, the colored reflective layer may be

produced by coloring a transparent resin such as polyurethane, polyethylene, polyester, and silicone resin used as a base material with a coloring pigment and/or a dye and incorporating a reflective pigment thereinto. Although the dye and the coloring pigment are not restricted to the particular kinds insofar as they can color the base material, it is desirable to the select dyes and pigments of high transparency. As typical examples thereof, organic pigments such as isoindolinone, chlorinated copper phthalocyanine, phthalocyanine, disazo, and anthraquinone may be cited. The color of the colored reflective layer is substantially not restricted to a particular one and may be selected from all the colors including white, black, and also a metallic color. For example, the colored retroreflective material of high whiteness can be obtained by selecting titanium oxide (TiO_2) powder as the coloring pigment. Particularly in the case of the inorganic pigment like the colored pearl pigment, the reflective pigment may be tinged with color.

Amend the paragraph of the specification at page 18, line 12 – page 19, line 11 to read as follows.

In the colored retroreflective materials shown in Fig. 7 through Fig. 9 mentioned above, since the base layer 11, the cover layer 12, the spherical glass beads 13, and the reflective layer 14 are all transparent and further the colored reflective layer 15 and the colored layer 17 are also transparent or translucent though they are colored, the color and design of the article A (fastener elements, fastener tape, etc.) to be applied can be visually confirmed from above without ~~no~~ discernible change under the conditions of diffused light. Under the conditions of retroreflection, the incident light from above is refracted as it passes through the spherical glass bead 13, part of the incident light is reflected at the upper surface of the reflective layer 14 lying under the spherical glass beads 13 and thus retroreflected at the same angle as that of incidence. Further, part of the light passes through the reflective layer 14 and reaches the colored reflective layer 15 (further the colored layer 17 in the case of the embodiment shown in Fig. 9). Part of the light which has reached the colored reflective layer 15 is reflected by the reflective pigment, such as a pearl pigment, and retroreflected through the spherical glass bead 13 again. Part of the light which has passed through the reflective layer 14 and reached the colored layer 17 diffuses in the

colored layer and is absorbed thereby. Since the pattern formed by the colored reflective layer 15 and the colored layer 17 reflects the luminance of retroreflection as it is, the pattern formed can be visually confirmed even under the retroreflective conditions.